

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - December 11, 2012

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Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Terry Moulthane, Bay City; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Jim Koenig, MDOT; Dave Harran, City of Bay City; Corey Bourcier, City of Bay City; Rachel Phillips, MDOT Bay City TSC; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary, BCATS Staff.

Minutes from October 9, 2012, BCATS Tech Meeting:

It was moved by Reithel, seconded by Sprague, to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2012 meeting. Motion passed.

Introductions were made as there were some new faces around the meeting table.

Legislative Update:

Engelhardt discussed the new Transportation Bill, MAP-21, was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama on July 6, 2012. There is nothing new to report about the Bill. The Bill reduced the STP funds that are distributed by population from 62.5% to 50%, so small MPOs saw a reduction of STP funds due to this change.

STP Funding for Fiscal Years 2013 and Future Years:

Engelhardt wrote a letter to MDOT and FHWA to convey concerns about changes in STP funding from MAP-21. Under MAP-21, STP Funding by population was reduced to 50% from 62.5%. As a result, small MPO's STP funds in Michigan went down 30%. In MAP-21, the funds that went toward the Category C (Urban Congestion Relief) and D (Rural All-Season Roads) projects were eliminated. However, MDOT elected to use flexible STP funds to keep this funding source for those types of projects. The changes in funding from MAP-21 have resulted in the rural areas receiving more STP funding than in the past, so it's unclear what the purpose would be in keeping "D" Funding. One proposal Engelhardt included in his letter was to not put aside STP funds to the Category D program and distribute those funds according to the Act 51 population formula. The result would be around \$100,000 increase for BCATS in STP funds, but not recovering the \$400,000 reduction that occurred as a result of MAP-21. The other proposal suggested that MDOT distribute the NHPP funding to all areas with local Principal Arterial Roads, not just the TMAs. This would result in approximately a \$50,000 increase in Federal Funds to BCATS that can only be utilized on local Principal Arterial Roads (Wilder Rd, Trumbull St, Midland St, and Woodside Ave).

BCATS TIP Amendments - MDOT and Bay Metro Transit JARC:

Engelhardt discussed the BCATS TIP Amendments for MDOT and for Bay Metro Transit Authority. Engelhardt provided a handout about the amendments. MDOT needs to add 2013 GPA to the TIP. Bay Metro Transit may have to remove their

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JARC Projects from the TIP as JARC funding is no longer a separate funding source in MAP-21. All JARC projects are now eligible for the 5307 funding source. Bay Metro Transit stated that the New Freedom Program Project should be removed from the 2014 TIP as New Freedom Funding was also eliminated. Engelhardt and Koenig will confirm the need to remove the JARC projects.

A motion was made by Sprague, seconded by Moulton, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the above MDOT and Bay Metro Transit JARC TIP Amendments, along with the removal of the New Freedom Project. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2014-2017 TIP Development Schedule:

Engelhardt discussed the BCATS 2014-17 TIP Development Schedule and discussed the expected funding available. The base year, 2013, funding is \$972,000 with a 2% increase per year through 2017. By January 2013, Engelhardt hopes to have all the projects on hand to start to determine which ones will go into which year based on available funding. Phillips stated that the State will continue to work on designing Car Pool Lot in 2014 and the other MDOT project in that time frame will be M-13 (S River Rd) in 2017. There will be a new online submittal application for TIP submittal and maintenance which will affect the reporting for the 2014-17 TIP. Engelhardt is hopeful that there will be training taking place for the new reporting program soon.

Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB):

A map was provided by Westbury showing the adjusted census urban boundary being proposed by BCATS to smooth out the Urban Area from the 2010 Census. The 2000 Census Urban Area went up to Linwood bringing Fraser Twp into BCATS. In the 2010 Census, the Urban Area did not extend that far north. However, the area still has urban characteristics so it could be included in the ACUB. There was discussion on the benefits and drawbacks to that area being included in the Urban Area. Portions of Portsmouth and Frankenlust Townships have been added to the adjusted urban boundary, but otherwise the boundary is similar to the 2000 ACUB.

A motion was made by Moulton, seconded by Harran, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the adjusted census urban boundary map. Motion Passed.

MOU with SMATS Urban Boundary of Saginaw in BCATS Area:

Engelhardt discussed that there is a tiny piece of the Saginaw Urban Area that comes into Bay County. As required by MAP-21, the entire Census Urban Area must be part of the MPO, so that part of Bay County would be part of Saginaw's MPO, SMATS. Engelhardt put together an MOU with SMATS and BCATS that states that BCATS will handle planning for that portion of SMATS in Bay County, keeping the status quo. BCATS will need to make a resolution to allow the Chairman of BCATS to sign the MOU.

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A motion was made by Reithel, seconded by Bourcier, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to allow the Chairman of BCATS to sign the MOU with SMATS. Motion Passed.

Principal Arterial Function Review:

Engelhardt discussed the Principal Arterial Functional Class Review. Due to MAP-21, all Principal Arterials must be part of the National Highway System (NHS). MDOT is asking all MPOs to review their Principal Arterial roads to confirm that they still function as such. Westbury explained that M-13 north of Wilder Road to Beaver Road will be added to the NHS, along with the I-75/M-13 Connection, M-84 south of I-75 and the Midland/Vermont/Woodside corridor to Truman Parkway. The other Principal Arterial Roads are already part of the NHS. The group discussed the addition of Wilder Road from Patterson to Tiernan as an Inter-Modal Connector.

Asset Management:

Engelhardt gave an update and said that the PASER ratings for this year have been collected for all the Bay City local roads. The ratings were done in the calendar year, just not within the fiscal year. Engelhardt is currently working to get funds from the Asset Management ratings that have been completed.

2012 BCATS Annual Report:

Engelhardt provided everyone with a draft copy of the 2012 BCATS Annual Report text and asked that they review the report and get back any changes to him this week. The 2012 BCATS Annual Report is in the process of being reviewed by staff. Engelhardt would like to have the report published in the Bay City Democrat before the end of the year. This report is published as part of the BCATS Public Outreach Plan.

Midland MPO Status:

The creation of the Midland MPO is moving forward even though they are aware of the fact that STP Funds are down for MPO's. At a recent meeting, they reviewed their By-Laws. Once they get approval from FHWA and MDOT, the By-Laws will be forwarded to the Governor for review and approval. After they get the Governor's approval, they will be able to get the Midland MPO into place. They are still struggling with organizational structure and it is expected that they will be a stand-alone MPO with a director who will report only to their Policy Committee.

Project Updates:

As it's the end of the year, there are very few project updates. Phillips indicated that MDOT will begin the ***M-13/M-84 Salzburg Ave Project*** in March 2013. Harran said that the ***Uptown at the River's Edge Project*** site is waiting on permits to conduct foundation work in order to start the infrastructure for the project. This project is expected to begin April 2013.

Other/New Business:

Access Management:

Reithel discussed the upcoming Access Management RFP that will look at developing a draft ordinance for Euclid Ave between Salzburg Ave and Wilder Rd. Engelhardt said that in his communications with Bedell, it's important for

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the City of Bay City to know how much additional information is needed for this project so they can determine staff time. It's important to have an ordinance in place that will back up the plan. Engelhardt said that a Scope of Work would be very helpful for this project. Bourcier discussed the possibility of Bay City replacing the Water Main under Euclid Ave and how that project could affect Access Management on the road. Discussion ensued.

As there was no other business, the December 11, 2012 meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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